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Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights

Global Fund Workshop

case **STUDY**



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Introduction

The Global Fund workshops are a series of five-day workshops which took place in 2015, organised by NSWP in partnership with regional sex worker-led networks. The workshops are designed to provide sex worker communities with essential information for understanding the complex structure of The Global Fund, strengthening the sex worker community engagement with national Global Fund processes and develop relationships between Global Fund staff and sex worker-led organisations in recipient countries.

Baseline

The Global Fund is one of the world's largest funders for providing testing, treatment and care for people living with HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. It is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people living with one or more of the three diseases. The Global Fund does not implement programmes on the ground, but funds governments and organisations in eligible countries. The Global Fund provides funding to one or two Principal Recipients in each country, who then distribute funds to Sub-Recipients.

Sex workers are a key population in the fight against HIV and sex worker-led organisations are recognised¹ as essential in developing and providing services and programmes that are appropriate and rights based.

However, as The Global Fund does not directly fund grassroots organisations, sex worker-led organisations are often overlooked or excluded from Global Fund national processes that would ensure that they receive funding for programming.

Stigma, criminalisation and discrimination all contribute to sex workers' exclusion from or marginalisation within Global Fund processes at country level. As such, sex worker-led organisations must be proactive in engaging with these processes and advocating for the inclusion of sex worker-led responses.

History

The Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF), in partnership with The Global Fund, had set aside funds to facilitate the engagement of key populations in Global Fund processes, increase the impact key population groups have, and increase the visibility of key populations. With the prospect of some countries transitioning out of The Global Fund, the problem of identifying other sources of funding for key populations programming was also an issue of concern.

Funds were allocated for building capacity among key population communities to engage in The Global Fund processes, which included funding for networks of sex workers, people who use drugs, men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people.

In 2014, the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and NSWP jointly organised a capacity-building workshop on The Global fund, which took place in Siem Reap. This workshop focused on human rights and gender, as well as providing information about The Global Fund. In 2015, when NSWP received the RCNF Global Fund grant a Senior Programme Officer was hired to further develop the 2014 workshop, through designing a global training of trainers to develop the skills and knowledge of regional community experts, who would co-facilitate a series of five regional workshops to develop skills and knowledge of national community experts, and create the *Smart Sex Worker's Guide to The Global Fund*², a short, plain-English guide.

1 <http://www.nswp.org/news/newly-published-who-tool-reaffirms-the-importance-sex-worker-led-hiv-programming>; http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2012/20120402_UNAIDS-guidance-note-HIV-sex-work

2 <http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-workers-guide-the-global-fund>



Goal

The goal of The Global Fund workshops is to strengthen the capacity of sex workers to engage in Global Fund processes, ensuring that sex workers are meaningfully involved in the decision making, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of sex work programmes funded by The Global Fund.

Engagement with Global Fund processes will provide additional benefits that will help ensure that sex workers are not excluded from policy and programmatic decision-making and funding, such as:

- increase sex workers' confidence in interacting with high level officials.
- understanding how to effectively convey their message.
- better understanding the politics of national and international decision making.
- building relationships with key decision makers that may positively affect future funding.
- keeping sex workers on the future funding agenda and within National Strategies.

Strategies

The Global Fund Workshops provide sex workers with the knowledge and tools to advocate for the inclusion of sex worker-led programmes in Global Fund proposals, ensuring that HIV and STI prevention, treatment, care and support programming are rights-based, and designed and implemented with the meaningful participation of sex workers. Participants gain the knowledge and skills for identifying and addressing sex workers' issues within The Global Fund processes, as well as at country level.





Curriculum

The curriculum was developed to provide participants with the basic information required for them to effectively engage with The Global Fund and influence decisions. Topics covered include:

- 1 Introduction to The Global Fund and the (not so) 'New Funding Model'.
- 2 Sex workers' experiences of working with The Global Fund.
- 3 The Board, its Delegations and its Committees.
- 4 The Communities, Rights and Gender Department.
- 5 Grant Management Department Country Teams.
- 6 Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM).
- 7 Country dialogue and concept note development.
- 8 Global Fund strategies and action plans and integrating human rights and gender equality into rights-based sex work programmes.
- 9 Understanding Community Empowerment in the context of Community System Strengthening (CSS) and integrating CSS into rights-based sex work programmes.
- 10 Finding your way around The Global Fund website.
- 11 Understanding the role of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).
- 12 Taking action and getting practical with the next steps.

The curriculum and programme delivery is designed for each day to build on the last, providing a base of knowledge and then filling in gaps. Participants are provided with additional time to ask questions and address issues not covered in the curriculum.

In addition to learning about The Global Fund, participants learn about the global guidance that has been accepted by The Global Fund as the framework for rights-based sex work programming: *Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers: Practical Approaches from Collaborative Interventions*, also known as the *Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT)*³.

The SWIT was produced in 2013 by WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, NSWP, the World Bank and UNDP. It is a comprehensive global tool offering guidance on how to implement the WHO's 2012 recommendations on HIV and sex work. It emphasises the importance of sex worker-led organisations and their meaningful involvement in all aspects of design, implementation and evaluation, as well as the need to roll out and scale up rights-based sex work programmes, it also highlights the importance of influencing HIV policy at national and international levels. The SWIT provides best practices and essential information for rights-based programming for sex workers, providing participants with important tools for contextualising The Global Fund information, and for identifying issues, priorities and necessary changes at the country level. The SWIT provides guidance for the development of sex worker-led programmes that will meet the goals of The Global Fund.



Thanks to PJ Starr who supplied the image featured on the cover of this document

3 <http://www.nswp.org/resource/who-implementing-comprehensive-hivsti-programmes-sex-workers-practical-approaches-collabora>



Art Advocacy

The curriculum also includes an art advocacy component. Art advocacy is developed over the course of three days. Participants learn about effectively communicating advocacy messages through art and performance, and the power of art and performance advocacy in environments where protest may be illegal or repressed. The participants collectively develop a painting to communicate their advocacy message in the context of The Global Fund.

Art advocacy helps break up the information-heavy sessions, providing a fun, participatory activity for participants.

Feedback Sessions

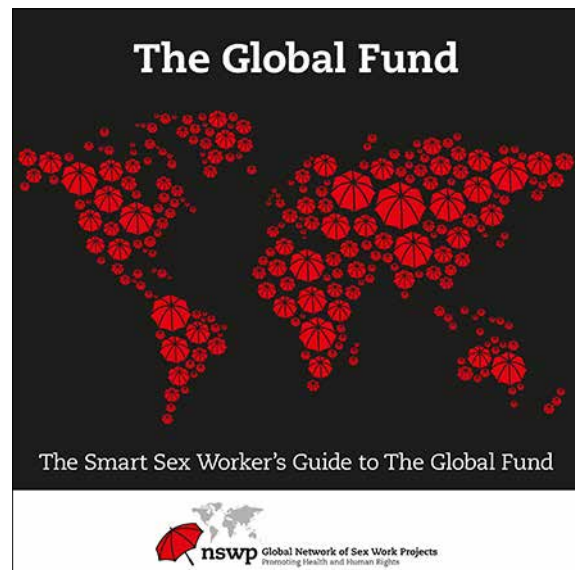
At the end of each day, facilitators and a few participants chosen by the participants themselves gather to share feedback and review how the day's sessions went. Feedback is incorporated immediately. The feedback sessions enable the facilitators to make changes as the workshop progresses, being flexible and responsive to the needs of the participants.

Learning Styles

The workshops provide a combination of presentations and participatory activities. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences in relation to the information shared through Power Point presentations. Country teams use flipcharts to document and share the current situation, issues and needs within their countries. Practical exercises provide a process and templates for participants to use when they go back home.

Tools and Written Materials

Prior to the 2015 workshops, NSWP developed the *Smart Sex Worker's Guide to The Global Fund*. The Smart Guide provides an accessible and easy to understand reference for participants to take back to their organisations, or to refer back to themselves. The Smart Guide is available in NSWP's five official languages: English, French, Russian, Chinese and Spanish⁴.



Participants are provided with a flash drive containing all of the presentations and notes from the workshop. This allows them to focus on listening and participating, rather than taking notes. The complex information, along with tables and illustrations, can be reviewed at participants' leisure after the workshop. Non-English speaking participants were provided with translations (in French, Spanish and Russian) of all of the workshop material (participants are also provided with whisper translation during the workshop.)

Two-Way Exchange of Knowledge with Global Fund Staff

The workshops are designed not only to benefit the participants, but also The Global Fund staff who attend as facilitators. The Global Fund staff spend time with the participants during all the sessions and meals, this provides them with the opportunity to interact and build relationships with sex workers to better understand the context of sex work, which may be relatively new to many Global Fund staff.

This two-way exchange of knowledge and relationship building can help bridge the gap between sex workers and The Global Fund Secretariat in Geneva, and increase confidence on both sides.

⁴ <http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-workers-guide-the-global-fund>



Training of Regional Community Experts

In July 2015, a training of trainers was conducted in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to prepare a group of regional community experts who would serve as facilitators in each of their regions. This group included members of each of the sex worker-led networks in each of the regions served by The Global Fund.

Building Relationships

Each country team worked closely throughout the workshop with other country teams, helping to strengthen the regional network through sharing valuable experiences and knowledge that can benefit the rest of the region.

Post-Workshop Support

After the workshop, country teams have access to the regional community experts who facilitated their workshop and from their regional networks who can provide additional support in implementing their new knowledge. This support is available to organisations that are recipients of Global Fund grants, those wanting support to engage in national Global Fund processes and those who need support in monitoring the sex work programmes funded by The Global Fund.

“If country-level members need help they know they can ask for help from APNSW. They know that APNSW is dealing with Global Fund issues.”

APNSW Staff Member

Partnerships

The Global Fund workshops were developed by NSWP, and the regional sex worker-led networks: the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), the Africa Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA), the Caribbean Sex Worker Coalition (CSWC), Plataforma Latinoamericana de Personas que Ejercen el Trabajo Sexual (PLAPERTS), and the Sex Workers’ Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN). The regional networks nominated sex workers to be trained as regional community experts to serve as facilitators and organised the logistics of holding the workshop in each of their respective regions.

Within each region, sex worker-led groups nominate country teams of three sex workers to participate. Countries that were eligible for The Global Fund, and where NSWP and the regional networks had members were selected to attend the regional workshops.

NSWP has also partnered with other global key population networks: the Global Forum on MSM and HIV (MSMGF), the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), and the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) were invited to attend to observe and gain knowledge that will aid in the development of similar workshops for their constituents

Performance Measures

Six Global Fund workshops were held in 2015, one global workshop to train regional community experts and five regional and cross-regional workshops to train national community experts. The workshops trained a total of 111 sex workers from 34 countries, 12 regional community experts and 99 national community expert from all five NSWP regions (Asia Pacific, Africa – Anglophone and Francophone, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.)

Every participant completes an evaluation at the end of the workshops, scoring from 1 = Very Poor up to 5 = Excellent

- 77% of the questions received a 5
- 12% of the questions received a 4
- 6% of the questions received a 3
- 5% of questions received a 2 or 1



Analysis and Results

The participants arrived at the workshops with a wide range of knowledge. A few were already sitting on the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)⁵, but for many The Global Fund was a new concept that they were largely unfamiliar with and which they were not actively engaging with. Even participants who were involved with Global Fund processes expressed that they did not have a strong understanding or broad base of knowledge about The Global Fund. Despite the different levels of knowledge that participants arrived with, all were able to participate fully and leave with the same level of understanding of The Global Fund.

Overall, participants gained a much clearer understanding of the country dialogue process, concept note development, and how to ensure sex workers are meaningfully included, and how to effectively use the SWIT to improve sex worker-led and rights-based programmes.

“SWIT will really help us in training other sex workers in different fields.”

Anglophone African participant

The sessions on the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and how to navigate The Global Fund website were mentioned by many participants as particularly useful.

“It was helpful because we can provide information to our communities especially how to lodge a report to the OIG.”

Southeast Asia participant

Participants from all workshops indicated that the opportunity to interact with and build relationships with Global Fund staff has been extremely valuable in enabling sex workers to meaningfully interact with The Global Fund. These relationships have broken down barriers and increased the participants’ confidence in contacting staff for assistance. Global Fund staff also said that the opportunity to build these relationships is valuable, and has helped increase their understanding of the issues that sex workers are advocating on and what is happening within countries.

The workshops have provided valuable information to both the regional networks and country teams, enabling more meaningful participation and inclusion in Global Fund processes.

“Very interactive and sex worker friendly.”

Southeast Asia participant

5 “Country Coordinating Mechanisms are central to the Global Fund’s commitment to local ownership and participatory decision-making. These country-level multi-stakeholder partnerships develop and submit grant proposals to the Global Fund based on priority needs at the national level. After grant approval, they oversee progress during implementation.

Country Coordinating Mechanisms include representatives from both the public and private sectors, including governments, multilateral or bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private businesses and people living with the diseases.” <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/ccm/>



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APNSW

APNSW has started doing more advocacy with UNAIDS in member countries, working with technical partners and The Global Fund. Understanding The Global Fund process allows members to better follow information and has strengthened partnerships between regional and country networks. Country networks being strong means stronger regional network.

APNSW is developing a plan to provide this type of training at the country level in local languages. Participants of these workshops will become facilitators for country-level training.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Prior to the workshops, the participants of the workshop in Quito, Ecuador, expressed having very little knowledge of The Global Fund, and felt that The Global Fund was very inaccessible and distant.

“We thought they were very distant, impossible to know and hear our voices.”

Latin America participant

Participants found it particularly useful to learn about the Community, Rights and Gender Technical Assistance Programme, Community Systems Strengthening, and the ability to file complaints about misused funds and human rights violations. Learning about the SWIT was also highlighted as an important benefit of the workshops.

Participants will reach out and develop relationships with various government ministries to ensure the meaningful inclusion of sex workers, and engage with the CCM within their countries to ensure that sex workers are involved in the development of the Concept Note and that sex worker organisations receive funding.



Malaysia

The country team from Malaysia, Pertubuhan Advokasi Masyarakat Terpinggir (Association for Marginalised Communities for Advocacy) (PAMT) had previously worked with The Global Fund, but still found that almost all of the information presented was new. While a single sex worker is included on the CCM in Malaysia, her presence was seen as a token and key populations are discouraged from speaking and are excluded from decisions.

Following the workshops, participants from PAMT expressed that they felt much more confident in contacting and accessing Global Fund staff and navigating the website.

“This is very meaningful and useful. It gives us more information to build up ourselves, to teach our communities.”

Participant, PAMT, Malaysia

Cambodia

The sex worker representative from Women’s Network for Unity (WNU) in Cambodia who sits on the CCM expressed that before the workshop she did not have so much information related to The Global Fund.

“We learned very important information. We find it very fruitful to disseminate information to people who are working for the communities. Through this message we hope to will help change in the community. For example, in the case of filing a complaint or application we knew how to gather some information but not all of it. After training we know how to use our resources in a meaningful way. Learned that through investigating reports we can address fraud or corruption. This is very important, in the past without this workshop we would not be aware of the details.

One thing make me very attentive is gender and human rights violation. This made a big impression. In the past I knew that The Global Fund was only working for the three diseases, but didn’t know how they link to human rights and gender.

I feel very comfortable now contacting Global Fund staff. I have all the contacts and they are willing to work with us to solve the problems. We are the ones who can collect the information so they can help us solve the problems. I feel very close with The Global Fund staff.”

Participant, WNU, Cambodia

WNU identified that they were not being funded for the HIV prevention work they were doing, with condom distribution and health and education programmes. The workshop provided important information about the current funding environment, and WNU was able to identify that they had not been included in the concept note (request for funding) submitted to The Global Fund Portfolio Manager for review in early October.



At the workshop, participants from WNU had the opportunity to meet and develop a relationship with Cambodia's Global Fund Country Portfolio Manager and Senior Programme Officer, informing them of the work that WNU does. These relationships, along with additional advocacy with UNAIDS resulted in The Global Fund Portfolio Manager adding WNU's Community Legal Service (CLS) to the concept note for about \$200,000. CLS is the only direct legal service for sex workers and entertainment workers in Cambodia.

However, while WNU has been allocated these funds through inclusion in the concept note, accessing them through the National AIDS Authority and National Centre for HIV/AIDS Dermatology STD remains a challenge. Bureaucracy, other funding requirements and lack of capacity may prevent WNU from ultimately accessing these funds.

“Communities are at the heart of everything that The Global Fund does and play an active role at every level of our operations. This workshop is an effort to continue to reach out to communities and to key populations to ensure that they are able to contribute to Global Fund decision-making processes in a meaningful way and to make their voices heard. Consultations with communities and civil society are key to achieve The Global Fund's mission, which is to invest for impact to achieve a world free of HIV, TB and malaria.”

Global Fund Cambodia, Country Team Member

Vietnam

The Vietnam country team was made up of members of the Vietnam Network of Sex Workers (VNSW). Some community-based organisations in VNSW are Sub-Sub-Recipients, however criminalisation prevents the network from registering as a legal entity, which is a barrier to being considered for funding.

The country team expressed that the workshop provided them with the knowledge to contribute via the CCM, participate in the national dialogue, interact with their Global Fund country team, and find important information.

The participants from Vietnam highlighted that the session on the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was particularly important, and that they would be sharing information on how to report violations, fraud and non-compliance with their communities. The new knowledge has empowered them to contact the OIG directly about issues.

“Sex workers are not highly educated so I am finding colourful artwork very powerful and efficient in communicating messages. I will go back to my country – I might not be able to write a song, but I can use colours to create a message to move people and help the community.

I am now participating in a training course, My Body My Rights. As a trainer I will learn about these skills and bring them back to my country to teach sex workers to use art forms to express their messages.”

Participant, VNSW, Vietnam



Papua New Guinea

Prior to the workshops, the Papua New Guinea country team from Friends Frangipani were not involved with The Global Fund at all. While they were aware of its existence as a funder, they did not have any specific knowledge about The Global Fund or know that sex worker-led groups could receive funding. The information shared at the workshop has inspired them to seek inclusion in the CCM. Since returning home, Friends Frangipani has connected with the community to share information about The Global Fund and has been in touch with the Senior Project Officer about participating in the country dialogue and concept note.

One Papua New Guinea participant expressed particular interest in the information about human rights and reporting violations through the OIG. Clinics in Papua New Guinea have shared the HIV status of patients with the community, violating their right to privacy and putting them at risk of discrimination. By the end of the workshop, the Papua New Guinea country team was already working on a plan to document evidence and report these human rights abuses.

“We will do things very differently. This really opened my mind up to what the CCM is about, what the Global Fund is really doing, and how as part of Key Populations we should be part of the concept note and CCM meetings.

Now we know that we can report things if not done right – mostly with regards to confidentiality around testing. People’s HIV status has been shared by clinics with the community. When go home we will start gathering evidence and documentation so that a complaint can be filed.

I can’t wait to get back home to be sharing this information.”

Participant, Friends Frangipani, Papua New Guinea

Issues

The major issues that were expressed related to art advocacy and translation.

As noted above, while the workshops are effective at empowering sex worker-led organisations to be engaged with The Global Fund, there are still significant barriers at the country level to full sex worker engagement and access to funds.



Conclusion

These workshops are an effective method of educating and empowering sex worker communities with regards to The Global Fund. Participants gained both knowledge and confidence to use that knowledge and consistently expressed that the workshops would influence their work.

Building relationships within the regional networks and with Global Fund staff was an important benefit of the participatory style of learning, for both participants and Global Fund staff.

Increased sex worker involvement in Global Fund processes, including the CCM, country dialogue and accountability will benefit both sex worker-led organisations and The Global Fund in reaching their goals.

“The workshop provided insights that will definitely help in further partnerships with The Global Fund.”

Caribbean participant

“I was empowered and it boosted my confidence.”

Anglophone African participant



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